

Gun Violence Prevention Working Group:

The tragedy at Sandy Hook Elementary School on 12/14/12 has been described as an "unimaginable & horrific" event throughout our nation and even the world. Those words do not adequately describe how Newtown has reacted to an event that has touched so many. Our small New England town will be struggling with the aftermath of this massacre for many, many years, if not forever. Innocent children & adults who were at Sandy Hook Elementary School that day, plus our very brave First Responders will carry those scars for the rest of their lives; some will recover and some will not. Signs in our area of "Love is Stronger Than Violence", Newtown Strong" and "WHY?" along with 26 wooden stars, beautifully constructed angels and green & white ribbons, represents the overwhelming sentiments expressed by people throughout our country. These expressions have been so very important to all of us living here in Newtown. We may never fully know "WHY" even after the full criminal investigation report is completed and released in June. However, we knew within minutes HOW the tragedy occurred. The sound of a weapon firing more than 100 bullets, within minutes, into 20 innocent children, many hit three to eleven times, could be heard by nearby residents as the first responders were arriving. We must make sure that the shots heard at Sandy Hook Elementary School continue to be heard around the world by banning all such destructive weapons. I support the three aspects of your Working Group; however, we must first take action to ban assault weapons and any semi-automatic gun that could be altered or converted, in any way, to become an automatic weapon NOW.

Too many events, such as this one, have occurred throughout the world for us to just accept it. Gabby Gifford, who visited Newtown, summed it up emphatically in just one word: ENOUGH!

Let the shots heard in Sandy Hook, on our college campuses, in movie theaters, malls, work places or any other location where peaceful people gather, be the beginning of the steps necessary to suppress the violence that is more and more becoming our norm.

Respectfully,

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